

## **chapter 18**

# **Pollution Prevention and Recycling**



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## Program Assistance

**A**utomotive Waste Recycling provides technical assistance to local governments and businesses establishing used oil and used oil filter recycling program. The Automotive Waste Recycling Team also encourages public compliance with the statutory used oil disposal ban and works with local governments to promote public participation in local used oil and oil filter recycling programs. For more information call 512/239-6750.

**Clean Cities 2000** gives recognition and incentives to encourage local governments to develop comprehensive waste reduction programs. To join Clean Cities 2000, communities must commit to implementing comprehensive recycling and source reduction programs that will reduce their solid waste disposal by 50 percent by the year 2000. These programs include community and backyard composting, residential recycling, workplace recycling, recycling market development, used oil and scrap tire collection, "Buy Recycled" programs and local public education. Cities with more than 50,000 residents are required to implement annual local water and air quality projects. For more information call 512/239-3156.

**Community Recycling** assists local governments with establishing comprehensive solid waste management programs. The Community Recycling Team provides expert technical assistance to cities that are considering, developing, or expanding recycling programs. The Community Recycling Program also sponsors the "Blueprint for 40 Percent" training events, which have reached more than 100 community representatives with in-depth information on how to establish local waste reduction programs that could help Texas reach its 40 percent goal. For more information call 512/239-6750.

**Composting** promotes the voluntary diversion of yard trimmings on an individual basis and works with cities to develop centralized composting facilities that can handle large quantities of organic materials. The Composting Program sponsors the Master Composter backyard composting training events and a centralized compost training course for communities on how to establish large-scale composting operations. For more information call 512/239-6750.

**Household Hazardous Waste Program** operates household hazardous waste collection events and provides technical assistance to local governments interested in organizing and implementing a collection event. For more information call 512/239-6750.

**Industrial and Hazardous Waste Recycling and Reduction** programs are also managed by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Recycling. For information on Clean Industries 2000, the Permanent Pollution Prevention Program, the Office of Waste Exchange, or technical assistance, refer to the Industrial and Hazardous Waste Chapter, Other Assistance Section or call Pollution Prevention and Conservation at 512/239-3100.

The **Lake and River Cleanup Program** helps community organizations start or enhance lake and river cleanup programs. The Program encourages Texans to get involved in voluntary cleanup activities, educates Texans about the dangers of water pollution, involves citizens in water quality issues and encourages them to develop local solutions to pollution problems. For more information call 512/239-3100.

**Recycling Market Development** works with local governments and industries throughout the State to help ensure that reliable markets for recyclable materials exist statewide. The Market Development Program has published a number of technical assistance guides including the Community Compost Marketing Manual. For more information call 512/239-6750.

The **Small Business Assistance Office (SBAO)** provides free and confidential assistance to small businesses through technical assistance, workshops, confidential non-regulatory compliance audits and easy-to-read publications. SBAO works with small business on a one-on-one basis to help them understand environmental regulations, like the federal Clean Air Act Amendments, and to assist them in obtaining permits and authorizations, completing report forms and preventing on-site pollution. For more information contact 800/447-2827.

**Toxic Release Inventory** - For information on Toxic Release Inventory Form R or the public database, contact the Toxic Release Inventory Program at 512/239-3100.

**TIER II Forms** - For information on TIER II forms, contact the Texas Department of Health at 512/834-6600 or 1-800/452-2791.

**Workplace Recycling** assists business, schools and local government offices develop in-house recycling programs that benefit the environment and help them save money on disposal costs. For more information call 512/239-6750.

## State Authority

The Pollution Prevention and Conservation Program was developed in 1992 to provide community leaders and businesses with technical and financial assistance on establishing and maintaining recycling and composting programs in response to a number of mandates from the Texas Legislature. The program directs and coordinates all source reduction and waste minimization activities at TNRCC and focuses on achieving statewide pollution reduction.

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) was initiated in 1987 under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) to help track pollution prevention and to provide information to the public about the presence and release of toxic and hazardous chemicals. Each year, manufacturing facilities meeting certain activity thresholds must report releases to land, air, water, and underground injection wells. In addition, facilities are required to report the amount of waste recycled, treated, or burned for energy recovery.

## In Addition

### Significant Laws

The following is a brief summary of the federal and State laws relating to pollution prevention, recycling and Community Right-to-Know. Please refer to the official rules for specific questions regarding compliance and applicability. The TNRCC publication "Regulatory Resource" (GI-32) contains detailed information about obtaining copies of the Agency's rules (see Appendix 4). The TNRCC Rules are also accessible from the Agency bulletin board. Refer to OnLine Services in Chapter 2 for more details.

### Federal Laws

#### *Federal Clean Air Act*

Requires states to establish a small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program.

#### *Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1984, Title III*

Added Title III Community Right-to-Know, a free-standing statute, increasing community awareness and access to information regarding the presence of extremely hazardous chemicals in local communities.

September 1995



*Federal Emergency Planning and Community  
Right-to-Know Act of 1986, Title 42 U.S.  
Annotated Code Public Health and Welfare*

Requires public reporting on the presence  
and release of toxic and hazardous chemicals.

## **State Laws**

*Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC)  
Chapter 361*

Establishes an Office of Waste Minimization  
and Recycling to provide technical assistance to  
local governments concerning waste minimiza-  
tion and recycling.

Establishes a 40 percent recycling goal for  
Texas and mandates that TNRCC develop  
programs to encourage the reduction of  
municipal solid waste.

Requires all government entities, including  
schools, to implement recycling programs.

Establishes minimum content goals for the  
use of recycled-content newsprint by Texas  
newspapers.

Requires TNRCC to conduct a public aware-  
ness program and media campaign to increase  
awareness of individual responsibility for  
properly reducing and disposing of solid waste.

Creates a Recycling Market Development  
Board.

Establishes an Office of Pollution Prevention  
to direct and coordinate all TNRCC source

reduction and waste minimization activities.

Requires industrial facilities to develop  
source reduction-pollution prevention plans.

Requires TNRCC to develop incentive  
programs to promote pollution prevention.

Establishes an Office of Waste Exchange  
and an industrial and hazardous waste materials  
exchange.

*THSC Chapter 370*

Requires TNRCC to provide education and  
training on source reduction and waste minimi-  
zation technologies and practices.

*THSC Chapter 371*

Requires TNRCC to conduct an education  
program to inform the public of the need for and  
the benefits of collecting and recycling used oil.

Establishes a used oil information center.

Requires TNRCC to develop a grants  
program for local governments.

Establishes a program to reimburse the  
public used oil collection centers for the disposal  
costs of contaminated used oil.

*Texas Toxic Chemical Release  
Reporting Act of 1989, THSC Chapter 361*

Requires source reduction and waste  
minimization facility plans and annual reports.